
NEW YORK STATE *Monthly Harvest*



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Wrap Up: Celebrating Dairy Month Across New York

Every June, Dairy Month gives us the opportunity to recognize New York's dairy farmers and manufacturers who produce some of the very best dairy products anywhere. This year, we took part in a wide range of Dairy Month activities to promote the industry - check out some highlights below!



Commissioner Ball Celebrates the Nearly \$30 Million Expansion of Agri-Mark Dairy Facility

Earlier this month, Commissioner Ball headed up to the North Country to celebrate the completion of Agri-Mark's nearly \$30 million expansion and modernization project at its cheese manufacturing facility in Chateaugay. The expansion is retaining more than 100 full-time jobs, supporting more than 500 agricultural jobs in the region, and helping to boost the state's dairy industry in

Northern New York – a fantastic way to celebrate Dairy Month. The 9,600 square-foot expansion included a state-of-the-art cheese production room, which has improved the facility's efficiency, and the rebuilding of the 110,000 square-foot manufacturing center, reconfiguring the layout of the facility, and purchasing new equipment and machinery. You can read more about the

expansion [here](#) and view photos of the new facility [here](#).

Department Continues Dairy Education Days Series

This year, the Department continued our Dairy Education Days series, which brings members of the Department to elementary schools across the state to help kids learn about New York's dairy community. Commissioner Ball was joined by local dairy farmers and their very eager calves during his visits to Castleton Elementary School and Schoharie Elementary School. Since the series' launch in 2018, dozens of staff members from the Department have visited their local elementary and middle schools to help New York's school children understand where their milk and dairy products come from and help them gain an early appreciation of the benefits of consuming local New York products. Educational materials for the schools and students, including fun giveaways, were provided by the American Dairy Association North East (ADANE).



Commissioner Ball Tours Dairy Farms Across New York

Every June, we are proud to highlight the amazing work of dairy farmers from all over the state. Dairy is the largest single segment of New York's agricultural industry, boasting nearly 3,200 dairy farms, from major global processing companies to small, family-run operations. This year, Commissioner Ball and other members of our staff had the opportunity to visit six farms, many of which are multi-generational, family owned operations: Garelick Farms, DiNitto Farms, Tollgate Farms, Walker's Farm, Whittaker Farms, and Crystal Valley Farm. We are always grateful to see firsthand the hard work our dairy farmers put into making delicious, healthy products that nourish our communities and help fuel our economy, and we thank all of our hosts this year for another wonderful Dairy Month!

USDA Announces \$23 Million to Support the Dairy Industry

Earlier this month the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced \$23 million in grant funding is available to support processing capacity expansion, on-farm improvements, and technical assistance services to producers through the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives. We look forward to once

again partnering with the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center to lift up the entire dairy industry in our region, and thank USDA for their continued and renewed commitment to dairy business innovation initiatives. The Request for Applications, information about grant eligibility, and a list of previously funded projects are available on the [Dairy Business Innovation Initiative](#) webpage. Applications are due August 10, 2023.



Dairy Promotion Order Board Meets in Syracuse

The Dairy Promotion Order (DPO) Board met this month in Syracuse to discuss goals for the year ahead. From helping get more dairy products into our schools to supporting new, innovative production methods, our DPO members work hard all year to help promote New York dairy products statewide.

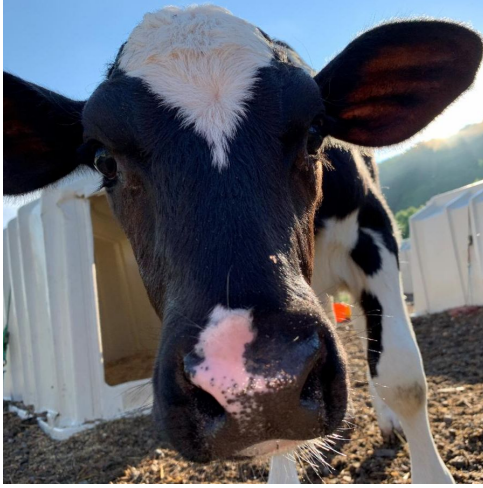
Commissioner Ball Attends NEDPA's Ice Cream Social at King Brothers' Dairy

The Department is proud to congratulate our partners at the Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA) on their 30th anniversary this year. Commissioner Ball joined our NEDPA partners for an ice cream social at King Brothers Dairy, along with our partners at Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance (NEAFA), New York Farm Bureau, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, and the New York Animal Agriculture Coalition, to discuss opportunities to expand and strengthen New York's dairy industry in the years to come. The Department thanks NEDPA for three decades of work supporting our dairy farmers and producers, and looks forward to another 30 years of partnership!



Department Releases Dairy Resource Catalog to Promote Careers in Dairy

As the largest single segment of New York's agricultural industry, the dairy industry boasts a wide range of exciting and fulfilling career opportunities. To help



connect more prospective employees to fulfilling work in dairy, the Department launched a new workforce development resource guide, as well as a new Dairy Careers webpage. The resource guide is part of the work of New York State's Dairy Think Tank, which focuses on understanding the dairy industry's workplace needs and devising strategies to help processors attract and retain great employees so that they can expand their processing capabilities. We are excited to continue working with industry leaders and

with our fellow state agencies to continue building a strong agricultural workforce that will help ensure New York dairy remains a pillar of our industry! To learn more, visit our new [Dairy Careers webpage](#).

Three Finalists Announced for the 2023 AEM-Leopold Conservation Award

Three finalists have been selected for New York's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)-Leopold Conservation Award (LCA). Awarded in partnership with the Sand County Foundation, the AEM-LCA honors a farm and its nominating Soil and Water Conservation District for their efforts to promote and protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality while helping to ensure farm viability for future generations. This year, our finalists are:

- Dygert Farms of Palatine Bridge in Montgomery County,
- Humbert Farms of Rose in Wayne County, and
- Tongore Farm of Olivebridge in Ulster County.

Earlier this year, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts were encouraged to identify and nominate the best examples of conservation success in their district. Applications were reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and conservation leaders.

Sand County Foundation, a national nonprofit conservation organization, will present the \$10,000 award with the support of the Department, American Farmland Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Ida and Robert Gordon Family Foundation, Farm Credit East, the New York State Agribusiness Association, Audubon New York, and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Learn more about the AEM-Leopold Conservation Award and 2023's finalist farms: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/news/three-finalists-selected-new-york-aem-leopold-conservation-award-1>.



Department Honors World Food Safety Day

In honor of World Food Safety Day, which takes place annually on June 7, the Department highlighted several actions the State has taken to enhance our food safety standards, a key focus of this year's World Food Safety Day celebration, including launching a new partnership with the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and updating our online kosher and halal registries. Learn more about these efforts: agriculture.ny.gov/news/new-york-state-agriculture-commissioner-highlights-food-safety-efforts-honor-world-food-safety.



To educate consumers on the importance of food safety standards, the Department also released a series of videos and social media posts to highlight the work conducted by Department staff every day to ensure the State's food supply is safe. Check out the videos below!

Happy World Food Safety Day!

Happy World Food Safety Day!

Learn what to expect at your next inspection.



**Agriculture
and Markets**

Celebrate World Food Safety Day with Dygert Farms Creamery

Happy World Food Safety Week!

Learn about sanitary inspection guidelines
with Dygert Farms Creamery!



**Agriculture
and Markets**

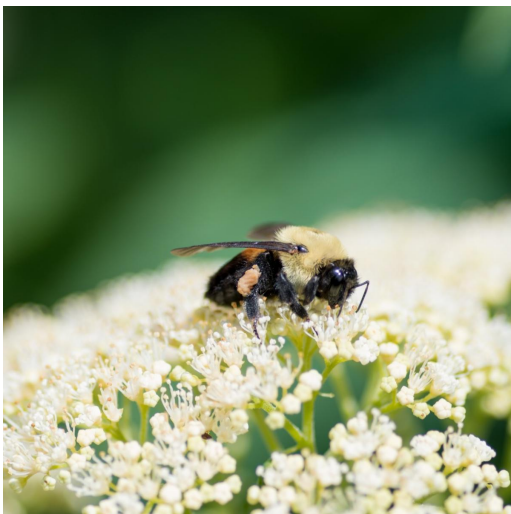
Heavy Metal Testing at the New York State Food Laboratory



Dairy Microbiology Testing at the New York State Food Laboratory



Updated Pollinator Protection Plan Released During National Pollinator Week



During National Pollinator Week, celebrated nationally this year from June 19 through June 25, New York State released its updated Pollinator Protection Plan, outlining the coordinated work of State agencies to enhance pollinator health, including beekeeper registration, outreach, and education programs; continued support of the New York State Beekeeper Tech Team; improved landscape management at state facilities and along roadways to provide increased habitats; and more.

Over the past several years, New York State has taken steps to promote honeybee health and better protect pollinators statewide. In 2022, the Department launched a beekeeper registration program to better help beekeepers maintain their colonies in a healthy condition, which has since registered 1,625 beekeepers who are managing nearly 31,500 colonies throughout New York State. Additionally, the Department's honeybee health improvement program asks beekeepers to indicate if they intend to sell bee colonies to monitor colony movement across and between state borders. To ensure that the Department can properly inspect bee colonies, all New York State beekeepers must complete the [registration form](#) and renew their registration annually at no charge.

Our partner agencies have also taken several steps to ensure that pollinators are protected in New York State. [Learn more.](#)

Nearly \$50 Million Available for Farmland Protection Projects, \$4.5 Million Allocated to Each Region Across New York State

Following the recent celebration of 100,000 acres of farmland protected in New York State in April, the Department is making available nearly \$50 million for additional projects through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program. The program helps to support perpetual agricultural conservation easement projects to keep agricultural land in production and ensure the long-term viability of New York's farming operations.



For Round 19 of the State's Farmland Protection program, \$47.5 million will be awarded to projects that support the State's top priorities, including food security, climate resiliency, and source water protection. In addition, the eligibility criteria for the program has been expanded again, now including three new categories: field crops, livestock or

livestock products, and access to farmland. Access to farmland is specifically intended to help address ongoing challenges facing new and beginning farmers as well as retiring farmers in this area. Round 19 also continues the one-time incentive payment of 10 percent of the value of the agricultural conservation easement being required for projects that meet climate resilience or source water protection goals.

As part of the funding awarded, \$4.5 million will be allocated to each of New York State's 10 economic development regions.

Eligible applicants can apply for the Farmland Protection program through the [Grants Gateway](#). Additional information on the Request for Applications can be found [here](#). Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until funds are exhausted.

Farm-to-School Funding Announced

Governor Hochul announced that ten programs have been awarded more than \$850,000 through Round 7 of New York State's Farm-to-School program, with four organizations being awarded funds through the program for the first time. Funding provided through the Farm-to-School program helps schools connect with local producers, increase the use of locally grown food on school menus, and improve student health, while providing increased economic benefits to New York's farmers. See a full list of awardees and get more information on the projects [here](#).



State Celebrates 10th Annual Invasive Species Awareness Week



The State celebrated the 10th Invasive Species Awareness Week in early June, an annual opportunity to learn more about invasive species and all the ways the State is working to combat these pests that can harm New York agriculture and the environment. A number of events were held across the State, inviting the public to learn more about invasive species, like the Spotted Lanternfly and Asian Longhorned Beetle, and how they can help to control their spread and help protect the agricultural industry. Find out more about the invasive

species that impact agriculture [here](#).

USDA Releases Five-Year Strategy to Combat Spotted Lanternfly

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) Strategic Planning Working Group has released the [Spotted Lanternfly \(SLF\) Five-Year Strategy](#). APHIS brought together the working group in August 2022 with representatives from APHIS, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and the National Plant Board (NPB). The working group developed a unified approach to reduce the SLF's spread and impacts through a coordinated approach and collaboration among state and federal resources.



SLF has now spread to 13 additional states since it was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014. Spotted Lanternfly is a destructive pest that feeds on more than 70 plant species, including plants and crops that are critical to New York's agricultural economy, such as grapevine, apple trees, and hops. First found in New York State on Staten Island in August 2020, the population has been observed in several locations throughout the State. Learn more: agriculture.ny.gov/slf.

Agri-Smart Informational Sessions to be Held In Oneida and Herkimer Counties

AGRI-SMART ONEIDA & HERKIMER COUNTIES

Wednesday July 19th 2023
10am-2pm
Mohawk Valley Community College
Wilcox Hall Schaffer Theater
Utica, NY 13501

• Topics Include •

- Overview of Agriculture in Oneida/Herkimer County-Ag Census
 - Agricultural Best Practices
 - Agricultural Programs
- Energy Efficiency Programs
 - USDA Grants
 - National Grid Grants
 - NYSEG Grants
 - NYS Grown and Certified
- Soil and Water - Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)
 - Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oneida County



ANTHONY J. PICENTE JR.
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

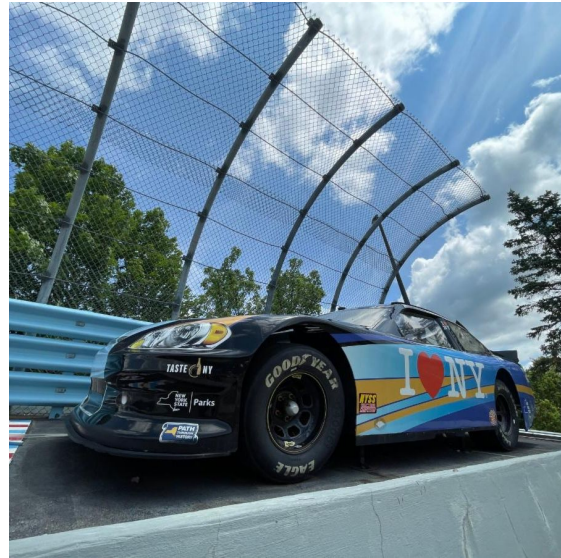


Farmers in Oneida and Herkimer Counties: mark your calendars for Agri-Smart, an informational session taking place on Wednesday July 19 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mohawk Valley Community College's Wilcox Hall Schaffer Theater in Utica. The session will provide information about grants, agricultural programs, National Grid incentives, NYSEG incentives, the NYS Grown & Certified Program and grants, the Climate Resilient Farming program, and more!

If you're a producer, local farmer, agri-business, looking to start an agri-business, or working with agri-businesses in this region, feel free to join in to learn more! RSVP by July 12th to Amy Heiderich at aheiderich@ocgov.net. Stay tuned for more information about opportunities like these across the state.

Taste NY 10th Anniversary Celebrations Continue at the Southern Tier Welcome Center

Continuing the Department's celebration of the Taste NY program's 10-year anniversary in 2023, Commissioner Ball visited the Southern Tier Welcome Center on June 21st. The special event showcased the Welcome Center's successes in connecting New York producers to more consumers, including bringing \$700,000 in product sales at the Southern Tier Welcome Center and drawing more than half a million visitors in 2022. Over the years, the Welcome Center has brought in products from over 150 vendors across the state.



The celebration at the Southern Tier Welcome Center brought together regional agricultural, tourism, and supporting partners to introduce visitors to the New York farmers and producers whose products are available at the Welcome Center. Vendors sampling at the event included Amish Agriculture, Black Dog Honey, Clines Catering, Jukebox Donuts, Juuuice, KDE Flavored Coffee Company, Shamrock Creek Farms, Sinfully Sweet Fudge, Walling Maple, and in celebration of Dairy Month, Gilligan's Ice Cream was also featured. [Learn more about the celebration](#), and stay tuned to the Department's social channels for more news about #TasteTurns10.



NYS Grown & Certified *updates*

Learn About the New York State Grown & Certified Infrastructure, Technology, Research, and Development Grant Program

The New York State Grown & Certified Infrastructure, Technology, Research and Development Grant Program, through the [Consolidated Funding Application Round 13](#), will provide grants on a competitive basis to eligible applicants who will administer a grant program that will assist agricultural entities in implementing projects that will invest in critical farm infrastructure, adopt state-of-the-art practices, purchase innovative technology or equipment, or conduct cutting edge research to aid in the development of new products to meet consumer demand marketed under the New York State Grown & Certified program. Projects must have a direct and timely benefit to New York agricultural producers/processors and significance to the region served by the eligible applicant. The program will be overseen by the Department. [Learn more about this opportunity and how to apply.](#)



Current Funding Opportunities

- [RFA 0294 - Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 19 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Projects](#)
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
- [RFP 0291 - Climate Resilient Farming](#)
 - Applications are due August 7, 2023.
- [RFA 0263 - Municipal Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants](#)
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
- [RFA 0262 - County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants](#)
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
- [RFA 0238 - Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 18 - Conservation Easement Projects](#)
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.
- [RFA 0181 - Source Water Buffer Program](#)
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis.

For more information on these or other funding opportunities, [please visit our Funding Opportunities page.](#)

Spotlight: Commissioner Ball Congratulates Winner of the "Still Growing" Poetry Contest

In September 2022, the Department announced a challenge to New York's third to eighth grade students to write a poem that celebrated the resiliency of our food system, following the 2022 NASDA Conference's theme, "Still



Growing.” Earlier this month, Commissioner Ball visited Stokes Elementary School in Rome, NY, to honor one of our winners, Chase Willson, who got to read his poem at the conference last September. We thank all the young writers who participated in this contest and congratulate Chase on his much deserved win. We love hearing about the ways our youngest New Yorkers think about and value agriculture, and it is a great joy to read all of your work!

REGISTER TO VOTE

Sign up online or download and mail in your application.

REGISTER NOW

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